(e) The quantity of fruits and vegetables exported to major importers of the item from India is given below

(Quantity: metric tons)

Country	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	Country	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
Bangladesh	146537.1	456138.8	478596.6	Nepal	44183.03	125078	120969.4
France	8115.27	5982.14	2962.26	Netherlands	4575.27	5481.87	8866.91
Germany	2709.02	5806.36	2763.13	Saudi Arabia	16989.03	16337.8	15194.76
Kuwait	5146.32	7571.98	8624.55	Sri Lanka	136750.6	113126.2	104657
Malayasia	159351.8	177615.5	162753.5	U.A.E.	38105.1	38934.84	50685.81
Maldives	6448.92	5027.57	5282.74	U.K.	17877.74	15877.06	16697.40
Mauritius	1398.77	4758.38	3665.49	U.S.A.	23632.44	11915	7448.21

(Source: APEDA)

Increase in import of agricultural products

†19. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR:
SHRI SURENDRA LATH:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that import of agricultural products during last three years has increased in each years;

(b) if so, the State-wise details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to reduce the import of agricultural products;

(d) if so, whether Government have conducted any study regarding its far reaching consequences on our domestic agriculture and horticulture sector;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the steps taken by Government in this regard?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) to (b) The import of agriculture products during each of the last three years is as under:

Value in Rs. Crore

	2002-2003	2003-2004	2004-2005
Import of Agricultural Product	16063.4	18825.9	20185.8
(% growth over previous year)	(19.6%)	(17.2%)	(7.2%)

However, the State-wise data are not maintained.

(c) to (f) There has been no comprehensive study on the impact of liberalised imports of agricultural products on Indian Agriculture. Recently the Government has brought out a study entitled "State of the Indian Farmer: A Millennium Study", as a part of which "Globalisation and Agricultural Liberalisation in India" has also been studied. Based on various measures of import and export competitiveness, the study concludes that most of the important agricultural commodities in India are competitive and that India can withstand competition from abroad with respect to the import of most of the crops.

In order to ensure that the farmers of the country are not put to any hardship, the Government has put in place a suitable mechanism for monitoring the import of sensitive items.

Import duties on a number of items including edible oils (both crude and refined), tea, coffee, copra and coconut, wheat, rice, maize, pulses, spices, arecanut and apple have been increased in the last 5 years wherever necessary. Further, the Government is also implementing a number of development programmes to increase the competitiveness of the Indian farmer. These include introduction of improved farming technology, improved availability of inputs including water, credit and fertilizer and price support through the Minimum Support Price (MSP) Scheme and Market Intervention Scheme (MIS).